Popish Treaties not to be rely'd on: In a Letter from a Gentleman at *York*, to his Friend in the Prince of *ORANGE's* Camp. *Addressed to all Members of the next Parliament.*

THE Credulity and Superstition of Mankind hath given great Opportunities and Advantages to cunning *Knaves* to spread their Nets, and lay their Traps in order to catch easie and unwary Creatures; these being led on by Ignorance, or Stupidity, they by Pride or Ambition, or else a Vile and Mercenary Principle; Therefore seeing we are in this State of Corruption, bred up to believe Contradictions and Impossibilities, led by the Nose with every Fetch *Monsieur*, and *Monkish Juglers*, moved like *Puppets* by Strings and Wires; it seems high time to vindicate Humane Nature, and to free her from these Shackles, laid upon her in the very Cradle; for Man (who ought to be a Free and Rational Animal) in his present State is only an Engine and Machine, contriv'd for the Vanity and Lucre of *Priests* and *Tyrants*, who claim to themselves, and seem to Monopolize the Divine Stamp, tho' we are all made of the same Materials, by the same Tools, and in the same Mould, equal by Nature, met together and link'd in Societies by mutual Contracts, plac'd by turns one above another, and entrusted for some time with the Power of executing our own Laws, and all by general consent for the Publick Good of the whole Community; this is the genuine Shape and Figure of Primitive and Sound Government, not distemper'd and fatally infected with the monstrous Encroachments of Arbitrary Power, in one single Monarch above all the Laws of the whole Nation. Divine Right &c. fancied by Knaves and Fools, and believ'd by Fools, who (tho' ever heard of the Greek and Roman Histories, and never read their own,) I shall therefore give some Examples (out of an infinite number) of People ruin'd and utterly destroy'd by their easie Credulity, and good Nature, nature of Fools being (Proverbs 14. 15.) to trust every Word to their Mischief, than the cunning Nonsense of the Wise, (Proverbs 26. 5.) to perplex and confound our Reflections, lest it should discover the naked Truth of things. The present Letter will confine it self only to Publick Promises, Oaths, and Solemn Contracts, so basely violated by the Popish Princes of Europe, and Heretical, only because unsuccessful, Wars, with begun with the most solemn Leagues.

The Spaniards and Portugals have liv'd peaceably with the Moors, and the Subjects of both Nations, thro' the Cruelty of the Bishops would be no credulous, if it was not restrain'd by their own Interest, such Examples and Treaties (the most sacred Bonds under heaven) were soon neglected, and the Spirit of their Religion broke all before it; how many Millions of those innocent Creatures were murder'd in cold Blood, and for Pastime sake, with all the variety of Torments that the Devil could inspire into them; how soon were the vast Regions of *Mexico*, *New Spain*, *Peru*, *Hispaniola*, *Brasil*, &c. depopulated, above twenty Millions of the poor harmless Inhabitants being put to death in full Peace, and they the best natur'd People in the World, and very Ingenious; tho' they may seem Savages to a Sort of Men, who think all *Barbarians* that differ from them in Habits, Manners, Customs, Dies, Religion, Language, &c. not considering that all wise Nature hath contriv'd a difference of things for various Climates; Navy, your Scorn of Nations in this *Catholick* Nations here at home, that they will frequently bring Strangers (settled amongst them by the Laws of Commerce) and their own fellow Subjects into the *Inquisition*, especially if they are Rich, upon a pretence of some Heretical opinion, tho' they themselves at first protect and licenst the Opinion; as in the case of *Molina*, whose Book had receiv'd an Imprimatur from most of the *Inquisitors* of *Spain* and *Italy*, and even from the Infallible *Head* of the Church, yet afterwards it was burnt, and he himself together with many of his Followers miserably tortur'd; the *Pope* scarce escaping the Parliament. The Generous *Monsieur Schomberg* (driven out of *France* for his great Services) who had won many Battels for the *Portuguese*, and sav'd their Country, could not be suffer'd to end his Old Age amongst them, but was forc'd in the midst of Winter to commit himself to the Sea, and fly to an Inhospitable Shoar.

The present *French* King renounced all his Predecessors Treaties, contained the *Pyrenean* Treaty, and swore at the Altar, not to meddle with that Country, but how well he observ'd that Sacred Covenant, *Baron D'Asfeld* will best inform you in his *Bouches Fides*, for which he was thought to be poison'd; neither hath the *French Monarch* been contented to break all Faith and Measures with the *Spaniard*, but he hath gone about to deceive and ruine the *Pope*, *Emperor*, all the *Princes* and *Electors* of the Empire, the Prince of *Orange*, Duke of *Lorrain*, the Swedes, the *Dutch*, and the *English*, still not only these his Neighbours and Allies, but his own Protestant subjects, who trusted all the Security that Solemn *Edicts*, *Oaths*, and *Promises* could afford them, besides many other obligations upon the Crown for bringing the King to the Throne;

yet

Yet all of a sudden they found themselves oppress'd and destroy'd by her Agents and Instruments, their Temples razed, their Wives and Children taken away, their Goods, and Estates confiscated, themselves cast into Prisons, sent to the Gallies, and often shot as like Birds: His seising of *Lorain*, *French Comté*, *Alsace*, *Strasburgh*, *Luxemburgh*, the Principality of *Orange*, the Country of *Avignon*, *Philipsburg*, the whole Palatinate, the Electorate of *Mentz*, *Treves*, the building of *Chamber* by the Jesuits, and above all his violating of the Peace of *Ryswick* and *Nimeguen*, and Solemn Treaties, and National Agreement, and Publick Treaties, that *Lewis* and *Francis* can have Impudence enough to declare them a Crime, a Rebellion, and a Treason, for any to take Arms against them, and to defend themselves, and their Religion, Liberties, Laws, Estates, Lives, and Families, from the Violence of such Oppressors, and Destroyers of Mankind, and of all Religion, Justice, Honesty, and Humanity, and from the Cruelties of such Barbarous Tyrants, who have not Power or Opportunity to exercise their Malice, Inhumanity, and Cruelty upon Men, as they do upon Beasts, but make Dragoons of Women, and Children, and Force them to Renounce their Religion, and Baptism, and to submit to their Idolatry, and Superstition, that all the Instinct of Nature cannot separate them. The Holy Father of Rome, (that is to say, for Example and Instance) Pope *Innocent* the Eleventh, for the extirpation of Heresie, and the Reformed Religion, and our Holy Faith, and for the Establishment of Popery, and Superstition, and Idolatry, and for the Destruction of the Protestant Religion, and Liberties, and Laws, and Estates, and Lives, and Families of Protestants, and for the Advancement of Popery, and Superstition, and Idolatry, and for the Establishment of Arbitrary Power, and Tyranny, and for the Destruction of the

of the Stuarts of *Orange*, the Murders of *Monk*, the Ambition of *Cromwell*, and many other Acts of Barbarity, and Inhumanity, which the Records of *English* Barbarity, what Incredible Evidences of Popish Faith have accompanied by the Iesuitick Revolts of the Pope against the Emperours, by the Image-worship, and the daily Wars, Rebellions, Treacheries of the Romanists against their Princes, and all other publick Securities from the Council in Trent, that put to Death those two Good men.

The Reign of Queen *Mary*, is another Scene of the Intolerable and Treacherous Practices of the Church of *Rome*, what Oaths did she take, what Promises and Protestations did she make to the *English* Men who had let the Crown upon her Head, and yet they were the first that felt the Strokes of a Perfecution from *Her*. Read her History in *Fox's Martyrs*, and Doctor *Burnet's* History of the Reformation.

The many Conspiracies to destroy Queen *Elizabeth*, and King *James*, the Gunpowder Treason, the Cousels and King *Charles*, the Conspiracies to take off King *Charles* the First, and the many late Popish Plots are a continued Series and Thread, carried on by the Church of *Rome*, to break thro' all Laws both of *God* and *Man*, to erect an Universal Monarchy of Priest-craft, and to bring the whole World under their Yoke. The Swedes have taken a glorious and commendable way, to keep Popish Priests and Jesuits (those Banefull and disturbers of Societies, the declared Enemies to the Welfare of Mankind) out of their Countries, by Gelding them, and consequently rendring them incapable of Sacerdotal Functions, who bring them Incapable of Sacerdotal Functions, who bring them Incapable of Sacerdotal Functions, who the Priests have found out a Fallax, and will by Mass and Confess, if they can execute their Trade by night, and convey them in their Pockets cross the Seas, or to Fowlers in Mitres, Copes, and Vestments, the Romish Priests have been so intolerably turbulent, and such extravagant Incendiaries, that they have been often banished and put to Death; so that now they disguise themselves all over the Nations of Europe, under the Names and Characters of Merchants, Gentlemen, Physitians, &c. and carry on their own Designs, which is propagating a Party, which is their Religion all over *Europe*.

The long and dreadful Civil Wars of *France*, the many *Massacres* and *Parricides*, and lastly the Secret Practices, and Treasons, how can we rely upon the Faith of Papists, who think it no Sin to break their Faith with Heretics, and that Absolution will wash away the Guilt of Perjury, and Breach of Faith, and that Heaven is to be purchased by Rebellion, Murder, and Treason, and that the Pope can dispense with Oaths, and Promises, and Covenants, and Allegiance, and Duty to Princes, and that he can depose Princes, and Absolve Subjects from their Obedience

aspiring and true Grandeur of his Throne and; that the *States* themselves (to whom the Obligation was made) freed his Highness from the Bond; and that the necessity of Affairs, and the Importunities of the *People* forced that Dignity upon him, which his Ancestors had enjoy'd, and before well deserv'd; that he sav'd the sinking Commonwealth (their Provinces being almost all Surpriz'd and Ravish'd by the Enemy) compared to the gasping State of *Rome* after the loss at *Cannæ*; His Highness was no more puft up with this Success, than he had been dejected with Hardships and Misfortunes; always the same Man, Just, Serene, and Unchang'd under all Events, an Argument of the vastness of his Mind; whereas on the contrary, Mutability, (Sometimes Tyrant, sometimes Father of a Country, sometimes Hedging, other times Sweeping) is oftentime a Symptome of a Mean and Cowardly Soul, vile and dissolute, born for Ruine and Destruction.

As for the *Princess*, she may without any flattery be stiled the Honour and Glory of her Sex, the most Knowing, the most Virtuous, the Fairest, and yet the best Nurs'd Princess in the World; Belov'd and Admir'd by her Enemies, never seen in any Passion, always under a peculiar Sweetness of Temper, extremely moderate in her Pleasures, taking delight in Working and in Study, Humble and Affable in her Conversation, very pertinent in all Questions, Charitable to all *Proselytes*, and frequenting their Churches. The Prince is often seen with her at the Prayers of the Church of *England*, and she with the Prince, at the Devotion of his Church; she dispenses with the use of the Surplice, Bowing to the Altar, and the Name of *Jesus*, out of Compliance to a Country that adores her; being more intent upon the Essentials and Substantial Parts of Religion, *Prayer* and Good *Works*: She speaks several Languages even to Perfection, is entirely Obedient to the *Prince*, and he extremely dear to her; in a word, *She* is a *Princess* of many extraordinary Virtues and Excellencies, without any appearance of Vanity, or the least mixture of Vice; and upon whose Promise the World may safely depend: As for the many Plots and Conspiracies against this *Royal Couple* a fitter time may bring them all to light, and faithful Historians publish them to the World.

Lastly, We may observe that whereas it hath been the Maxim of several Kings, both at home and abroad of late years, to connive and encrease each other in Preying upon, and Destroying not only their Neighbours, but their own Protestant Subjects, by all methods of Perfidiousness and Cruelty; the only way to establish Tyranny, and to enslave the natural Freedom of Mankind, being to introduce a general Ignorance, Superstition, and Idolatry; for if once People can be perswaded that Statues and Idols are *Divinities* and adorable, and that a Wafer is the *Supreme God*, after two or three Ridiculous Words, uses'd by a vile Impostor and Juggler Christ, they may easily be brought to submit their necks to all the Yokes that a Tyrant and a Priest can invent and put upon them; for if once they part with their Reason, their Liberty will soon follow; as we behold every day in the miserable Countries where *Popery* dominates. On the contrary, it hath always been the Fidelity and immutable Principle of the Houſe of *Orange* to rescue *Europe* from its Oppressours, and to reestablish Governments upon the Primitive and Immovable Foundation of *Liberty* and *Property*; a Glorious Maxim, which all Nations from the Old *Roman Commonwealth*, that Conquer'd and Conquer'd so many Nations, only to let them Free, to restore them wholesome Laws, their Natural and Civil Liberties; a Design so Generous, and every way Great, that the Last grovelling under the Fetters and Oppressions of their Tyrants, flew in to the *Roman Eagles* for Succour and Protection, and under whose Wings the severest Nations lived in Peace, Safe and Happy, till Treasons and Usurpations began to break in upon the Sacred Laws of their Forefathers, Confusion, and to keep up Armies to defend that by Blood and Rapine, which Justice would have thrown in their Face, and Punished them as they deserved; the Preservation and Welfare of the *People* being, in all Ages call'd the Supreme *Law*, to which all else ought to yield.

From the foregoing Relation of matter of Fact, It appears most plain, that the *Roman Catholicks* are not to be ty'd by Laws, Treaties, Promises, Oaths, or any other bonds of Humane Society; the sad experience of this and other Kingdoms, declares to all Mankind the invalidity and insignificancy of all Contracts and Agreements with the *People*, who notwithstanding all their Solemn *Covenants* with *Heretick*, do watch for all Advantages and Opportunities to destroy them, being commanded thereunto by their *Councils* and the principles of their *Church*, and inflamed by their *Priests*.

The History of the several Wars of the Barons of England, in the Reigns of King *John*, *Henry* the Third, *Edward* the Second, and *Richard* the Second, in Defence of their Liberties and the abolishing the many Grievances under which the Kingdome groaned, is a full representation of the Infidelity and Treachery of their Kings, and of the Invalidity of Treaties with them. How many [illegible] and Treaties [illegible] and they from [illegible] and [illegible] Snares [illegible] to destroy their [illegible] Liberty, as Violations of Compacts and Treaties, and what havock was made upon all Advantages and Opportunities, that those false Kings could take. Read their Histories in our [illegible]

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